

Remarks

Claims 1-7 and 9-21 are currently pending in this application and are before the Examiner for consideration.

An Information Disclosure Statement accompanies this Response.

The subject invention is a unique storage device that safely and securely stores shoes in a recreational vehicle (RV). It is specifically designed to fit along the unused space on the pedestal of a queen sized bed in an RV. The subject storage device is currently marketed under the trademark RV SHOE BUDDY_{TM}. From its introduction, the subject device has enjoyed commercial success filling a long-felt need in the RV community. The product has been so successful, in fact, that a former distributor of the product has copied the product to sell under its own name. The attached Declaration of the applicant describes the process of bringing this product successfully to market.

Claims 1-6, 10-16 and 18-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Salley in view of Wilson. Applicant submits that the cited references do not suggest the subject storage device. Salley describes an article carrier to be attached to the interior of a car door. Wilson describes a fishing lure storage device with pockets that are expandable allowing larger, heavier items to be stored in the pockets. Placing the pockets of Wilson on the carrier of Salley may allow larger, heavier items to be stored in the carrier however Salley would discourage this substitution since an internal frame was already incorporated into the Salley carrier to prevent it from sagging under the weight of stored items. The cited references do not suggest the shoe storage device of the subject invention which stores large, heavy items such as size 14 shoes. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection based on these references is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 7 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Salley in view of Wilson and further in view of Harnish. Salley when viewed in combination with Wilson does not suggest or describe the subject shoe storage device. The description by Harnish of using hook and loop fasteners to attach a cushion to a seat back does not cure this defect. Applicant therefore respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Salley in view of Wilson and further in view of Cirigliano. Claim 9 recites that the compartments of the storage device of the subject

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invention can differ in height from one another. As noted previously, the layered pockets of Cirigliano would not be applicable to the shoe storage device of the subject invention nor could the pleated compartments of the subject invention be layered one upon the other like the pockets of Cirigliano. When viewed in combination with Salley and Wilson, a shoe storage device with pleated pocket of varying sizes attached to a back panel is not suggested or described. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

The subject invention is a unique and useful device to store shoes in an RV. In view of the foregoing remarks, applicant believes that the claims are now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicant invites the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any of this response, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment: Declaration under 37 CFR 1.132
Information Disclosure Statement and PTO/SB/08A